

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ID

SUBJECT: PERTAMINA'S LEASED TANKERS

1. FORMER AMBASSADOR GALBRAITH REPORTS THAT GOI HAS RECENTLY PULLED RUG FROM UNDER PERTAMINA LAWYER RE-NEGOTIATING TERMS WITH SHIPOWNERS WHO LEASED TANKERS TO PERTAMINA, BY ANNOUNCING IT WILL MAKE NO FURTHER PAYMENTS TO SHIPOWNERS ON CURRENT TERMS UNTIL THESE ARE RENEGOTIATED. LAWYER WAS REPORTEDLY ENCOURAGED BY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY SOME SHIPOWNERS (PAYMENTS WOULD BE REDUCED TO COVER OWNERS' MINIMUM COSTS WITH PROFIT-SHARING ARRANGEMENT COMING INTO FORCE WHEN TANKER MARKET TURNS UPWARD). THESE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN ADVANCED HOWEVER, IN ATMOSPHERE MADE CONDUCIVE BY GOI'S AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE MAKING PAYMENTS ON ORIGINAL CONTRACT TERMS. LATEST GOI ACTION COMPLETELY SOURS ATMOSPHERE FOR RENEGOTIATION. IT HAS ALSO PRODUCED A FLURRY OF LEGAL ACTIONS BY SOME SHIPOWNERS BEGINNING JULY 21 TO ATTACH PERTAMINA'S ASSETS IN US AND ABROAD. THIS, IN TURN, MAY SERIOUSLY AFFECT POSITIONS OF BANKS WHICH HAVE LENT GOI MONEY. GALBRAITH OPINED THAT EVEN PACIFIC LIGHTING MIGHT BEGIN TO WONDER ABOUT VALIDITY OF IBNU'S SIGNATURE ON

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ITS PURCHASE CONTRACT.

2. GALBRAITH HAS IT FROM BENSON THAT MORALE OF WIJARSO
AND TIRTO IS LOW OVER GOI'S INTERFERENCES IN PERTAMINA'S
RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES. ROBINSON

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